

Minister of National Health
and Welfare



Ministre de la Santé nationale
et du Bien-être social

15 X 1990

Crescent
, Quebec

Dear M

Thank you for writing to me on April 9, and June 20, 1990, and sending me copies of articles outlining your misfortune and your concerns regarding environmental chemicals, including pesticides. I regret the delay in responding to you.

I, along with my colleague, the Honourable Don Mazankowski, Minister of Agriculture, share your concern regarding the safe use of potentially toxic chemicals such as pesticides. Consequently, Canadian law and regulations require pesticide registrants to submit extensive scientific data relating to potential adverse effects which may be associated with the use of the product. The wide scope of testing provides reasonable assurance that, when the product is applied according to the very specific label instructions, there is unlikely to be a health hazard associated with its use. The labels on pesticide containers include information regarding the proper use, safety equipment needed, first aid, and precautionary statements to avoid inadvertent exposures including that of "by-standers".

Your illness and relapse are disturbing. With the available data, it is difficult to establish the possible association between your illness and

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exposure to the pesticides you mentioned or those alluded to in the articles you kindly sent me. Nevertheless, if you wish, my officials would be pleased to discuss the matter further with you and your physician. Please feel free to contact:

Dr. Leonard Ritter
Chief, Pesticides Division
Health Protection Branch
Department of National Health and Welfare
Room 145, Environmental Health Centre
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0L2
Telephone: (613) 957-1852

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Sincerely,


Perrin Beatty